

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

JUNE HALL, Killian Road, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that in 1967 and 1968, she was employed as the day bartender at the lounge known as Bill Bailey's. She picked from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as individuals who frequented the lounge. HALL advised that CLAUDE was a very quiet individual when sober, however, would be very unruly when drinking.

RAY GODFREY was a very likable individual and she would be quite surprised if he were in any trouble. HALL was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artists' conception of RALPH (LNU). When specifically shown the composite of RALPH (LNU), she was positive she had never seen the individual. She advised that she would have remembered the individual if he had ever been in the bar because of his good looks.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/23/76

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36
★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

HAZEL EVANS, 788 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge from 1966 to 1969. She worked the night shift and generally came on duty at 6:00 P.M. and worked until 2:00 A.M. The day bartender was JUNE HALL. A couple of times her niece, PAT BOOZER, worked in the bar, however, she was not a regular employee. "BUCK" BAILEY owned the bar in 1966, however, LEWIS CLARK managed the business the whole time that BAILEY owned it. Sometime in 1967 or 1968 LEWIS CLARK bought out "BUCK" BAILEY and owned it himself. BAILEY had very little to do with the bar and it was very seldom that he would come out to the location.

She picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from a spread of photographs and advised she had known him since he moved to Atlanta from Copperhill, Tennessee. She advised he was a very quiet individual and could not believe he could be in any trouble. GODFREY was a very likeable individual and almost everybody seemed to be friends with him. She also picked out the picture of CLAUDE POWELL as being a frequent customer of the bar known as Bill Bailey's Lounge. She was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as being a customer of the bar or a friend of RAY GODFREY. When specifically shown the artist's conception, she stated she did not remember any individual looking like that as being at the bar. She advised GODFREY never worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She knows of no other individual who frequented the bar named RALPH. She advised she does not know where any of the former patrons of Bill Bailey's Lounge can be located. She stated that the whole neighborhood where Bill Bailey's Lounge was located has changed racially and that all of the former patrons have moved to different parts of the city.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

PATSY BOOZER, 1202 Fleetwood Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She advised that approximately seven years ago, she had worked for a LEWIS CLARK at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She stated she was a bartender at this lounge. From the spread of photographs shown to her, she picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY as a frequent customer at Bill Bailey's Lounge. As far as she knew, GODFREY had a good reputation and was not known to be a trouble-maker with the police department. She did not know of any of RAY GODFREY's friends. She was not familiar with the photograph of CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. She was unable to select a composite of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown an artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) she advised she had never seen this individual.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2/23/76

Date of transcription

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE advised he and ROBERT McGARITY previously owned the property located at 1455 Moreland Avenue. He was sure that the bar located at that address had been in the past named both "Pete's Place", and "Bill Bailey's". Back in 1966, BUCK BAILEY took over the lounge and named it "Bill Bailey's". Sometime later, LEWIS CLARK obtained the liquor license and ownership of the bar. However, prior to that LEWIS CLARK had managed the bar for BUCK BAILEY.

VENABLE does not know anyone by the name of POWELL nor does he know anyone with the name of "DUKE". He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL. VENABLE advised that he had been in the bar a couple of times possibly during the period of 1967 or 1968.

The name RAY GODFREY is familiar to him, however, he has never personally met GODFREY. The only reason he knows the name is that GODFREY was supposed to be a country and western singer and was "fairly well known", at Bill Bailey's. He does not know any of GODFREY's associates.

He does not know any individual named RALPH (LNU) who is connected with the bar known as "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's".

VENABLE stated he is not related to JAMES VENABLE, the founder of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW: CW Date dictated 2/17/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-76

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WILLIAM LOWERY was contacted at his place of employment, Lowery Music Incorporated, and furnished the following information:

In 1966, he handled a professional country and western singer named RAY GODFREY. His records show that GODFREY's real name was R. A. GODFREY. He did not have any personal contacts with GODFREY but mainly dealt with him on a professional basis.

His opinion of GODFREY was that GODFREY was just a "good ole country boy" and that GODFREY could not be in any sort of trouble.

LOWERY viewed a spread of photographs which included RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and was unable to identify any of the individuals. When specifically shown the photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown), LOWERY advised that he had not seen this individual.

LOWERY again stated he did not know any of RAY GODFREY's friends or associates. GODFREY would merely come to Lowery Music to record his songs and be paid.

LOWERY was not familiar with any musician with RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER.

Interviewed on 2-27-76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:dd Date dictated 3-3-76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

RAYMOND GODFREY, 5228 Kingswood Circle, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

He is familiar with an individual named ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was known to everyone as RAY GODFREY and he is known to everyone as RAYMOND GODFREY. Both he and RAY GODFREY frequented a bar on Moreland Avenue known as Pete's Place. He picked from a spread of photographs the pictures of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as frequent patrons of Pete's Place. He stated that CLAUDE POWELL had a reputation around the bar as having a boastful manner while he was drunk, however, being a very friendly fellow while sober. He never knew CLAUDE POWELL to be in any sort of trouble or to be vicious in any way.

He was quite friendly with RAY GODFREY, however, is not related to him in any way. He described RAY GODFREY as being a "good old boy" who would not be in any trouble. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly individual and he never saw RAY GODFREY cause any trouble in the bar. He was unable to identify from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, he advised he had never seen this individual. He advised that he was in Pete's Place or Bill Bailey's Lounge almost every night from 1966 to 1967. RAYMOND GODFREY advised that through his association with RAY GODFREY, he knew that GODFREY had no use for Blacks, but would not harm anyone. GODFREY was not unique in his dislike for Blacks among the patrons of the bar, however, RAY GODFREY was an individual who would not resort to violence.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

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The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia, on the dates indicated:

CLARENCE FISHER, Owner, of Fisher Wall, 326 Paterson Road, Scottdale, Georgia, advised he does have an employee named RAY COOLEY, however, COOLEY was out on a job at the time and he would have COOLEY call on his return.

RAY COOLEY advised he is familiar with CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. He was running his own business in 1967 or 1968 and at the time he did have employed CLAUDE and LEON POWELL as dry wall installers. His records, however, are kept at home. He would attempt to review them and see if there would be some paperwork showing that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL were working for him in October or November, 1967.

On February 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, wife of RAY COOLEY advised she kept the records for her husband when he was in business for himself. She has been unable to find any records going back to 1967 or 1968, regarding any individuals employed for her husband. Her husband at that time was self-employed and did have a couple of individuals working for him. She specifically remembers that she moved into her own house in November 1967. Her husband installed the dry wall in her home. The individuals actually installing the dry wall were CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. Therefore, she is positive that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband in late October, or early November, 1967.

She feels quite certain that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband from 1966 until 1969.

142

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia on February 23, 1976:

Lieutenant STRICKLAND, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia, advised DIANE BRAND also known as Diane Brady took over the management of the bar named "The Office" on August 28, 1974. The previous owner was THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. HYATT owned the bar from February, 1972 until 1974. JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 Farrar Court, Decatur, Georgia, previously owned the bar from 1969 until 1972. The bar originally opened up in 1969.

PATRICIA BLUE, manager, apartments located at 4131 Flat Shoals Road advised THOMAS M. HYATT has not lived at that address for the last two years. She has been the manager of that complex for that period of time. She was unable to find any material in her file regarding THOMAS M. HYATT.

Records of the United States Post Office, East Atlanta Branch, Metropolitan Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, were reviewed with negative results regarding any forwarding address for THOMAS M. HYATT. The carrier for that route advised THOMAS HYATT has been gone from 4131 Flat Shoals Road for approximately three years.

A review of the Atlanta City Directory and the Atlanta suburban directory reflects approximately 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. The Greater Atlanta Southern Bell telephone directory lists in excess of 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. Neither the city directory nor the telephone book shows any listing for R. SETZER.

On February 24, 1975, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, State of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and requested to review the state tax records for any automobile owned by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from 1967 to 1968.

AT 44-2386

2

On February 25, 1976, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, Atlanta, Georgia, advised her records reflect that in 1968 A. R. GODFREY of 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta, Georgia, had license in the State of Georgia for a 1960 Chevrolet Impala, Georgia license 2J40393. Ms. WAGER advised that there are no other cars registered to A. R. GODFREY.

On February 24, 1976, JOE WALLACE, Security Office, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that the air lines do not keep the names of individuals who fly on their air lines longer than 90 days. According to the Civil Aeronautics Board, the actual tickets are maintained for 90 days. A computer run showing the history of the ticket is maintained in the air lines files for 30 days, therefore, after 90 days the air lines would not be able to supply any passenger information.

AT 44-2386

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON on February 26, 1976, at Atlanta, Georgia.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK.

Attached hereto is a xerox copy of a portion of an Atlanta city map showing:

- (1) location of hotel RAY GODFREY stayed
- (2) where RAY GODFREY's car was recovered
- (3) location of Pete's Bar.



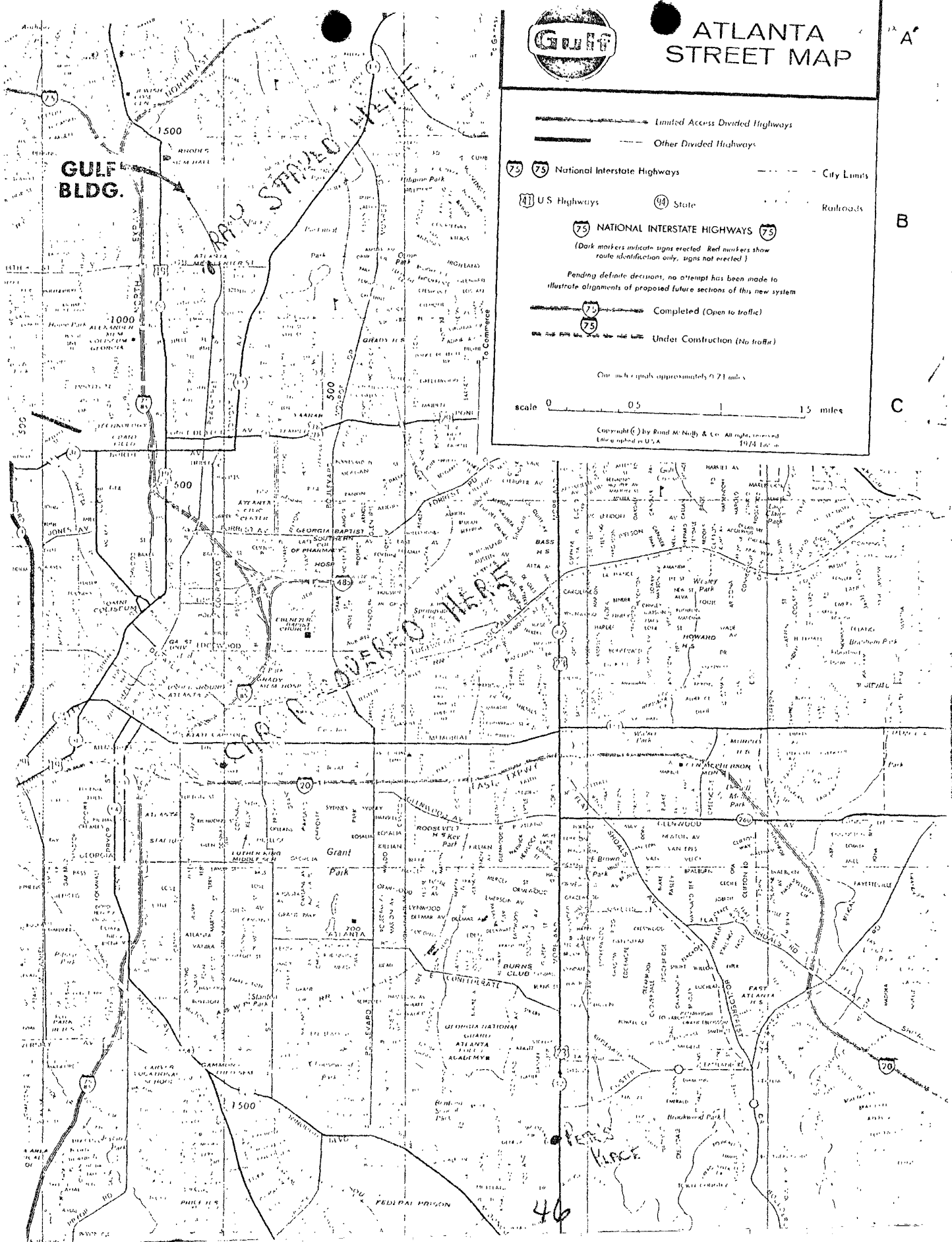
ATLANTA STREET MAP

A

Limited Access Divided Highways
 Other Divided Highways
 National Interstate Highways
 City Limits
 U.S. Highways
 State
 Railroads
75 NATIONAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS 75
 (Dark markers indicate signs erected Red numbers show route identification only, signs not erected)
 Pending definite decision, no attempt has been made to illustrate alignments of proposed future sections of this new system
 Completed (Open to traffic)
 Under Construction (No traffic)
 One inch equals approximately 0.71 miles
 scale 0 0.5 1 1.5 miles
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B

C



GULF BLDG.

GRANT PARK

46

AT 44-2386

A review of the records at the Federal Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri disclosed LEON POWELL had army serial service number [REDACTED] Social Security Account Number [REDACTED] date of birth [REDACTED] at Toccoa, Georgia and enlisted in the U. S. Army at Atlanta, Georgia. He served active duty from September, 1952, to December 21, 1955. He was honorably released from active duty as a private (high weapons infantry) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and transferred to U. S. Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army Reserve on December 23, 1960 by reason of expiration of service.

LEON's report of medical examination dated December 19, 1955, disclosed "multiple psychosomatic complaints". LEON did not keep his appointment and did not desire to remain in service for further treatment.

LEON was tried and convicted by summary court marshal January 23, 1953 for Absence Without Leave and sentenced to 45 days hard labor. He had a special court marshal on September 14, 1954 for breaking restriction and by a special court marshal on August 26, 1955 for Absence Without Leave. No other medical records were found for POWELL other than dental claim.

No military service record was located for CLAUDE POWELL.

49

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/27/76

In addition to information furnished by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY of 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, on interview transcribed January 14, 1976, that to the best of his recollection, he was in Nashville, Tennessee, "shacked up" on the day MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. GODFREY thought he could verify this through some personal records.

Interviewed on 1/13/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA BERNARD R. BERRY
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/20/76

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SECTION
